historical text mining, and historical text mining, and historical text mining: challenges and opportunities

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Overview



- Text Mining?
- 'History' of Text Mining
- Mining Texts about History
- Mining Historical Texts
- Opportunities for the Future



... Text Mining?



- Text Mining: No canonical definition
- Commonly used definition based on Data Mining:

"The non-trivial extraction of implicit, previously unknown, and potentially useful information from data."



"The non-trivial extraction of previously unknown, interesting facts from a collection of texts."

... Text Mining?



Isn't this just Data Mining with Text?

- Typical Data Mining Functions:
 - Classification
 - Association Rule Mining
 - Clustering

Useful when applied to texts, but doesn't fulfill the definition as they don't discover "facts".

... Text Mining?



Isn't this just Information Retrieval?

- Information Retrieval:
 - Locates most relevant documents to query
 - Returns documents
 - Clusters documents (etc)

Still doesn't fulfill the definition as it doesn't discover "facts", it works only at the document level.

Text Mining



Need to understand the meaning of the text:

- Part of Speech tagging
- Deep Parsing (clauses)
- Named Entity Recognition
- Information Extraction
- Infer information from correlations

Result: New Knowledge



Other Benefits



Plus a lot more:

- Improved document classification
- Automatic semantic annotation of documents
- Improved access -- search by semantics and concepts
- Improved clustering of documents by concept
- Summarization
- Visualization techniques



Examples: Cheshire3



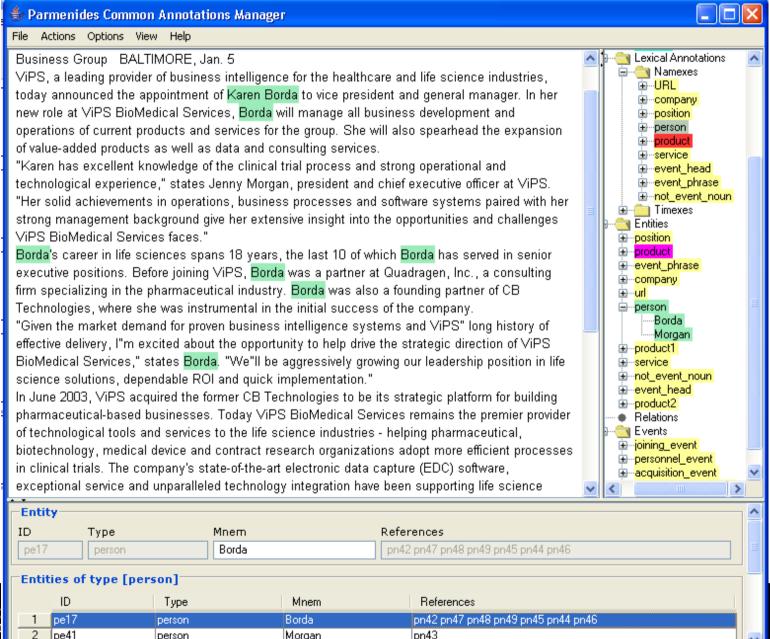
- Information Processing Framework
- Standards based: XML, SRU, Unicode, etc.
- Scalable: Single machine to Grid (PVM, MPI, SRB)
- Extensible: Python + C, Object Oriented with stable API

- Tools from NaCTeM partners integrated
- Medline: 4,350 records/second using 60 processes at SDSC
- Bibliographic: 440 seconds for 16 million records (1 field)



CAFETIERE

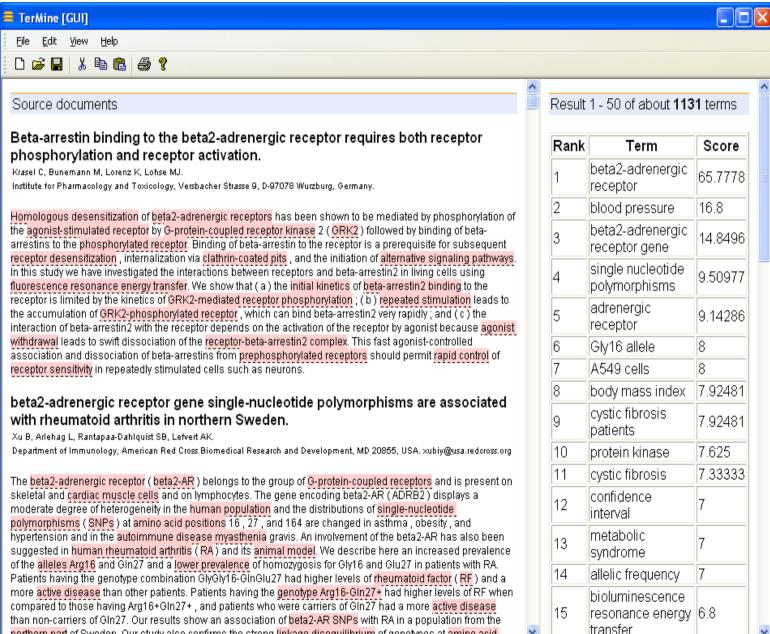




person

Tenyline



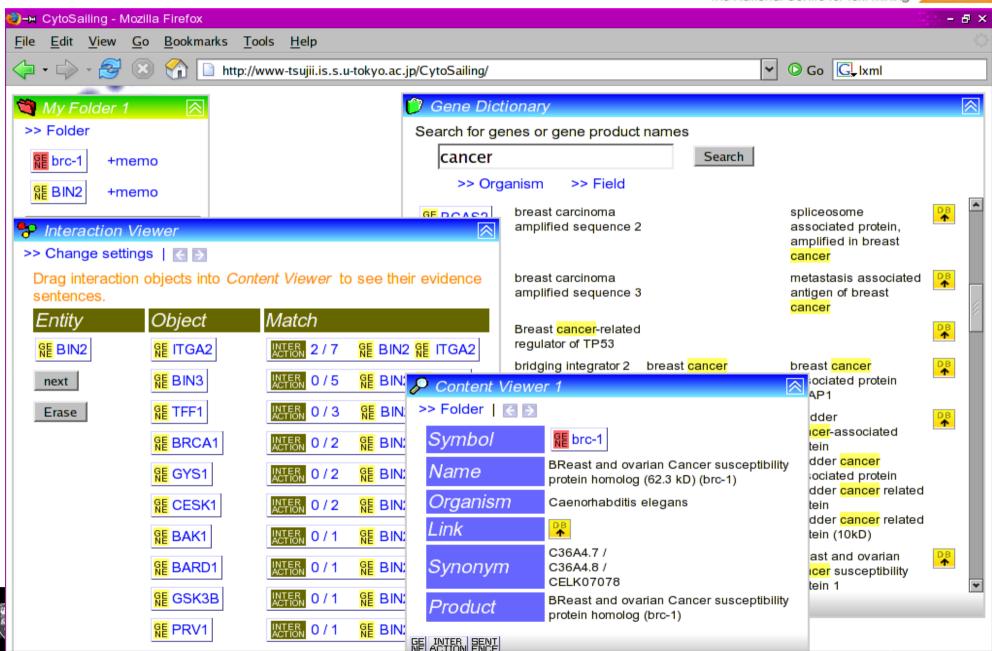


northern part of Sweden. Our study also confirms the strong linkage disequilibrium of genotypes at amino acid

Tokyo

Done





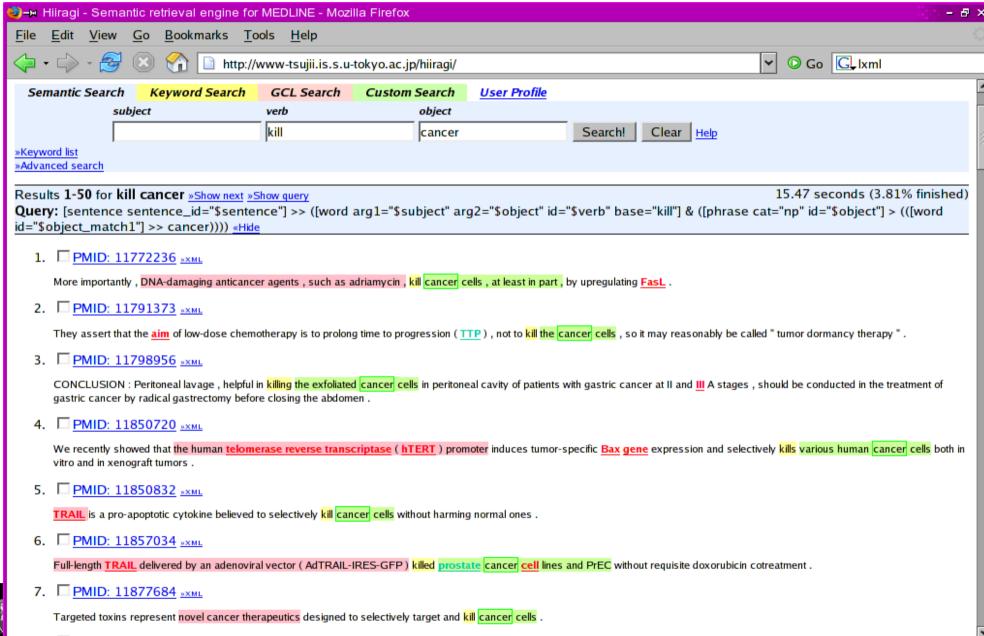
6.301s

Adblock



Done





2.224s

Adblock

Information Extraction



- Extract events from the text along with information about the participants
- Can be modeled as relationships between named entities
- Extracting events allows discovery of hidden temporal correlations
 - eg: Google refuses to announce plans. Google's stock falls.
- Improves understanding of the semantics, improving the functions based around those semantics



Focus



- Focus on current events and bioinformatics.
- Why?

- Easily available large scale data sets
- Easily available remote services and tools
- Easily available ontologies and thesauri
- Easily available \$\$\$ £££ ¥¥¥ €€€



Focus



Today's news is tomorrow's history

- People, Events, Places, Dates
- a.k.a: Who, What, Where, When
- Want to find out correlations ... a.k.a Why



History Mining



Challenges:

- Entity recognition harder due to ...
- Lack of ontologies due to ...
- Very broad scope (centuries compared to days)

Fewer easily available datasets

Need ArXiv, CiteSeer or Medline for History

OTA? Project Gutenberg? (Brown, Cobuild, BNC?)



History Mining



Language

Most tools focus on English (Bio, CompSci)

History in all languages, dead and alive

TreeTagger, Chasen, Juman...

Services, Tools:

No remote services?

Need OSS or remotely available taggers, ontologies etc!





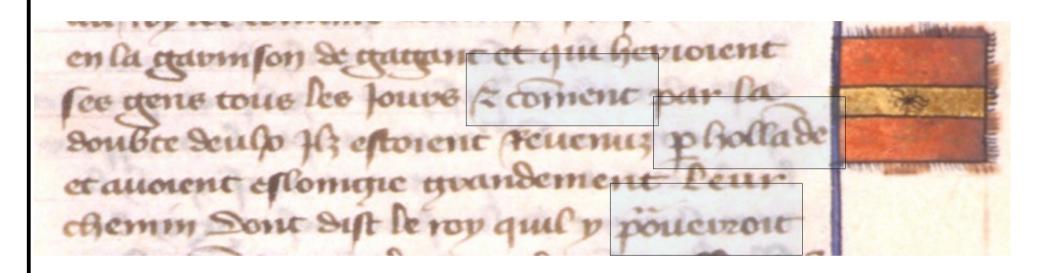
- Datasets? Tools? Services? Anything?!
- Perseus Project, Cultural Heritage Language Technology

- Much harder across the board
- Additional issues need additional experts from different areas
- Difficult to get full transcriptions of the texts to work with
- Histoire versus Chronique hard to extract events
- History written by ... the most frequently copied manuscripts





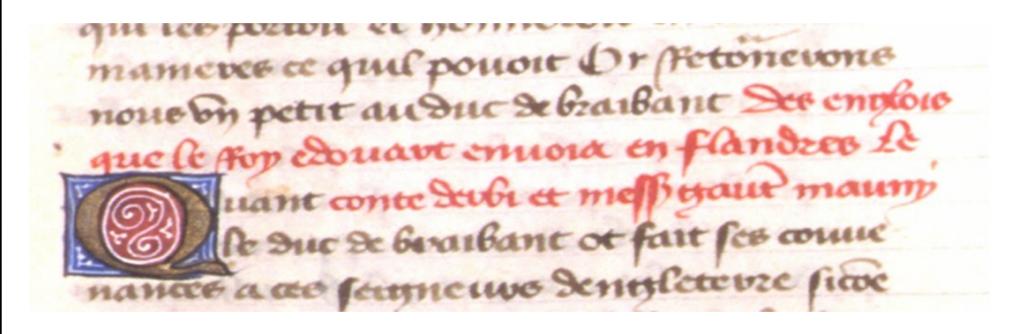
Abbreviations



Needed: Smart abbreviation dictionary, standardised way to record abbreviations, re-rendering mechanisms?



Broken Text Flow



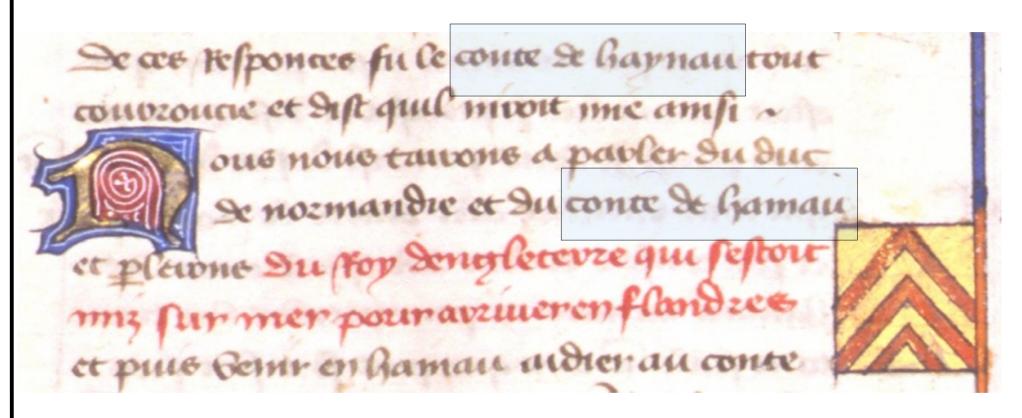
Needed: Language models + image analysis

Note: 'Q' as illuminated character within Quant





Little concept of 'correct' spelling

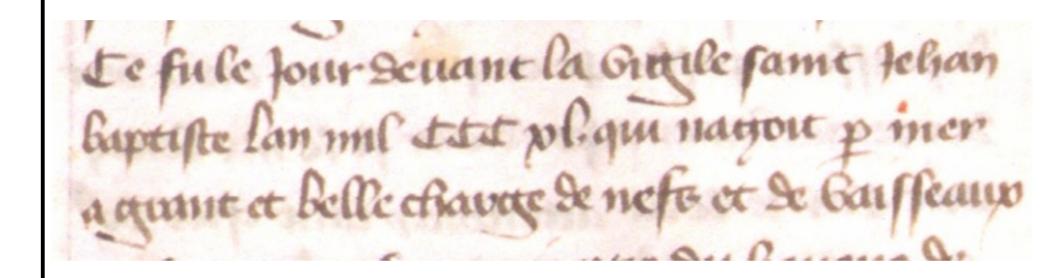


Needed: Language models, smart gazeteers, smart dictionaries





Date recognition



Needed: Smart chronological tools



Opportunities



- Increase availability of data sets, tools, services
- Increase the availability and production of ontologies, thesauri, taxonomies, gazeteers, chronologies, dictionaries...
- ... and link them in with language models.
- Identifiers! Identifers! Identifiers!

Text Mining as an aid to transcription

Most importantly: Collaboration!



Thank You



Questions?

